

What is claimed is:

1. A device comprising:
  - a camera module;
  - an I/O system; and
  - a controller connected to the camera module and the I/O system, wherein the controller sets lighting of the I/O system in response to a signal from the camera module indicating an ambient light level.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein the I/O system comprises a lighted keypad, and the controller sets the lighting of the lighted keypad in response to the signal from the camera module.
3. The device of claim 1, wherein the I/O system comprises a display, and the controller sets the lighting of the display in response to the signal from the camera module.
4. The device of claim 1, wherein the controller turns off the lighting in response to the signal from the camera module indicating that the ambient light level is high.
5. The device of claim 1, wherein the camera module comprises an array of pixel sensors, and the signal from the camera module indicates an intensity measured by a selected one of the pixel sensors in the array.
6. The device of claim 5, wherein the pixel sensors in the array have associated color filters, and the selected one of the pixel sensors has a green color filter.
7. The device of claim 1, wherein the camera module comprises an array of pixel sensors, and the signal from the camera module corresponds to a transform of intensities measured by selected red, green, and blue pixel sensors in the array.
8. The device of claim 1, wherein the camera module comprises a dedicated ambient light sensor, and the signal from the camera module indicates an intensity that the dedicated ambient light sensor measures.

9. The device of claim 8, wherein the dedicated ambient light sensor comprises a photodiode covered by a green filter material that is used for green pixel sensors in the array.

10. The device of claim 9, wherein the dedicated ambient light sensor further comprises:

a second photodiode covered by a red filter material that is used for red pixel sensors in the array; and

a third photodiode covered by a blue filter material that is used for blue pixel sensors in the array.

11. A method for operating a device, comprising:

operating a camera module to measure an ambient light level; and

adjusting lighting of an I/O system according to the ambient level measured by the camera module.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein adjusting the lighting comprises adjusting the lighting of a lighted keypad according to the ambient level measured by the camera module.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein adjusting the lighting comprises adjusting the lighting of a display according to the ambient level measured by the camera module.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

operating the camera module to create a digital image; and

displaying the digital image on the display.

15. The method of claim 11, further comprising operating the camera module to create a digital image.

16. The method of claim 11, wherein operating the camera module comprises:

activating a pixel sensor in an imaging array of the camera module; and

measuring the ambient light using the pixel sensor activated.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein pixel sensors in the array have associated color filters, and the pixel sensor activated has a green filter.

18. A camera module comprising:  
an array of pixel sensors; and  
a dedicated ambient light sensor.

19. The camera module of claim 18, wherein the array of pixel sensors and the dedicated ambient light sensor are integrated into a single semiconductor chip.

20. The camera module of claim 18, wherein the dedicated ambient light sensor comprises:

a first photodiode covered by a green filter material that is used for green pixel sensors in the array;  
a second photodiode covered by a red filter material that is used for red pixel sensors in the array; and  
a third photodiode covered by a blue filter material that is used for blue pixel sensors in the array.